

Placer Work
Baker Record Courier, May 12, 1938

Consuelo Company Starts Placer Work

The Consuelo Oregon Mines is the name of the new company operating a shovel placer on Cracker creek a short distance above Sumpter.

A huge electric power shovel was landed on the ground about two weeks ago and last Sunday it was digging gravel which was washed through the plant for recovery of the gold in the gravel.

Max Hofman, who has been operating such plants in California, is on the ground in charge of the work.

Second Dredge Operating, Sumpter

Consuelo Mines Move In From California

Sumpter — (Special) — The Consuelo Oregon Mines company started operations Sunday evening on Powder river near the mouth of Cracker creek immediately above the town. This is the second dredge mining operation for this locality, the Sumpter Valley dredge, a quarter-million dollar boat and the largest in the Northwest has been running steadily for over two years several miles below Sumpter.

The new operation is using a "doodle bug" outfit with an electric dragline of about three-eighth yard capacity operating on crawler tracks from the shore with the washing plant located on an all-steel electric boat.

The operators had just dismantled the modern equipment at Oroville, Calif., after two years operation and Max Hofmann of the company indicated they expect to work in this section for at least four years, turning over the gravel for gold which in years past has come down from the famous local lodes.

In immediate prospect is another mining operation in the same part of the county, near Granite, where Porter Bros. last year tested ground and where machinery has already been taken this year by A. E. Murray for the company, presumably to prepare for dredging. The Noons, and a third company are also understood to be prospecting some ground there. The former were previously in this section with dredges and are now of California. The Granite road is now open to motor travel.

For the past several months C. H. Timms of the Timms Gold Dredging company of the North Fork near Galena has been acquiring claims and ground near Whitney. It is thought that tests have been successful and that if additional ground is obtained some sort of placering will be underway there before year's-end. This the Sumpter Valley railroad
the New Elko river south-

Cracker Creek
Baker

Baker Record Courier Aug. 1 1940

Dragline Shuts Down Near Sumpter

Sumpter—(Special)— The Con-suelo-Oregon doodle bug on Cracker creek has closed down because of lack of ground. The company's other plant working on Three Cent creek near Whitney is being moved to the upper end of Bull Run creek near Granite. The Cracker creek operation has taken several years.

The three yard Monigan dragline of the Northwest Development company here has shut down for extensive repairs on the undercarriage.

Sumpter Area
Baker Co.

Baker Democrat Herald ~~Sumpter~~ Nov. 16 1940

Special to The Democrat-Herald
SUMPTER, Nov. 16— The Con-
suelo Oregon Mines company has
started dredging operations in a new
location on McCulley's creek, about
two miles west of Sumpter. The
company, under the management of
Max Hofmann, has been dredging on
Powder river the past three years.
The little rough board fire-house

R, OREGON, OCTOBER 1, 1937

NEW DREDGE IS IN SIGHT FOR SUMPTER AREA

California People Testing
Dredge Gravel Near
Sumpter

WORK FINISHED ON CRACKER CREEK

Moves Equipment to McCully's Fork, Will Test
Ground in Sumpter and
Along S. V. Tracks.

There is strong probability
that Sumpter will soon see
another gold dredge in operation. Max Hoffman of California,
has been engaged several weeks
in testing dredge placers on
Cracker creek above Sumpter. It
was reported in Baker yesterday
that Mr. Hoffman had completed
his work on Cracker creek and
is moving his equipment to McCully's Fork where he has
contracts and leases on an acreage
from W. C. Calder of Baker, and
other parties.

Mr. Hoffman is also understood to have secured rights to
lands in the Sumpter townsite
and along the Sumpter valley
railroad which were not worked
by the old dredge. This land
will also be thoroughly prospected
by Mr. Hoffman before undertaking to install equipment
for working the ground.

EASTERN
OREGON
NEWS

DRAGLINES FOR DREDGING ARE IN THE FRONT

Doodlebug Plant To Be
Installed on Cracker
Creek

PLANT TO USE 15-MAN CREW

Granite District To Have
New Dredging Operations, Testing to Start in
the Spring.

With the coming of spring there is promise of considerable increased activity in gold dredging operations.

Last fall Max Hoffman of Oroville, Cal., purchased gold dredging lands on Cracker creek above Sumpter. The land was tested during the fall for the gold value.

A few days ago Mr. Hoffman was in Baker and Sumpter. He visited the ground and expects to return about the first of April or as soon as the ground is free of snow.

The equipment to be installed will be similar to that of the Ferris and Marchbank operation on the John Day. It will be a washing plant on a steel boat, with a dragline shovel on the shore. Mr. Hoffman has been operating such plants in California. A crew of 15 men will be employed in the operation.

The Granite district will be the scene of one or more such operations this summer, according to reports from that section. The Porter Brothers of Montana, spent last year testing lands on Granite, Clear, and Olive creeks in that district. As soon as the roads over the mountains are open for travel the Porter Brothers will have a prospecting crew in the field there it is reported to complete their testing work. Their last work was on Crane Flat.

J. W. Noon and associates, also have options on lands in the Granite district, and are waiting the coming of spring so they can complete prospecting their holdings.

The success of dragline shovels —doodle bugs, as they are called—is turning the attention of many to this type of placer mining. The investment is much less than with bucket line dredges and they are found better adapted for working areas that do not have sufficient yardage for the standard dredges.

Eastern Oregon News, Baker

March 11, 1938

The Mining Journal, April 15, 1938

Dragline dredge equipment similar to that used by Ferris and Marchbank at John Day, Oregon, is to be installed on placer claims on Cracker Creek above Sumpter. Max Hoffmann of Oroville, California, took over the ground last year and is now at Sumpter in charge of operations. Work began recently with a crew of 15 men.

Hofmann Resumes Dredging, Sumpter

Sumpter — (Special) — The weather here the past week has been perfect, the unusual warmth melting fully half the snow, and has softened the snow in the higher regions.

The river is already high, and it is rising rapidly. This high water, which is caused by the melting of the snow in the high mountains, is not usually expected before the first week of April or later. It causes a great deal of inconvenience to the dredges and draglines operating along the river.

The Max Hoffman dragline resumed operations during the past week. It is located some three and one-half miles above Sumpter on Cracker creek on the Bourne road. Only three of the crew who were here when the dragline closed for the winter are again employed.

These three are: D. Wright, S. L. Allen and G. Armstrong. The new men include Les Lang of Granite, Robert and Ed Putman of Baker, I. G. Isaacson, Charles Jensen, Robert Behner and Jas. Rew.

James Rew came out from the New York mine to work here. Because six miles of the trip had to be made on snowshoes, he left his family at the mine until the spring break-up.

The Mining Journal October 30 1937

California dredging interests are reported to have completed tests on Cracker Creek above Sumpter, Oregon, and to be moving equipment to McCully's Fork, where property has been leased from W. C. Calder of Baker and others. Max Hofmann, associated with the Consuelo dragline at Honcut, California, is at Sumpter in charge of testing.



Mining & Contract. Review Oct. 12 1937

Cracker Creek

Sumpter may have a new gold dredge operation as a result of testing placer ground in the **Cracker Creek** section, by **Max Hoffman**, of **California**. His equipment will work on ground in **McCully's Fork**, belonging to **W. E. Calder** of **Baker**. The building of a dredge awaits completion of all testing.

Max Hoffman
Max Hoffman has installed a large electric power shovel at his dredge operations on **Cracker Creek**, above **Sumpter**.

Eastern Oregon News, Baker, May 6, 1938

Installing Placer Equipment at Mine

A large electric power shovel was delivered to Cracker creek above Spokane last week for use in the Mr. Hoffman dredge operation. The shovel weighed more than 10 tons and a special truck had been brought from Portland to transport the huge machine from Baker to the property.

In addition to the shovel several truck loads of other equipment were delivered to the mine.

Mr. Hoffman purchased several mining claims on Cracker creek last fall which were tested with the result that he will start active operation and production as soon as the equipment is installed.

East on Main 16

HOFFMAN (MAX)

Cracker Creek

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